

MINUTES

OF THE

SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

AT ITS

SESSION AT ROCK HILL, S. C.,  
1879.

CHARLESTON, S. C.  
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Rock Hill, Wednesday, November 26th, 1879.

7 o'clock P. M. ●

The Synod of South Carolina met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. W. F. Junkin, D. D., from John iii. 2: "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do those miracles which thou doest except God be with him."

After the sermon, the Synod was called to order, prayer was offered by the Moderator, and the following members were enrolled:

### ROLL.

#### BETHEL PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
S. L. Watson, (2)*	J. L. Adams,	Bethel.
J. H. Saye,	J. G. Drennan,	Fishing Creek.
Jas. Douglass,	D. McCullough,	Mt. Olivet.
D. Harrison,	J. R. Hoge,	Beth Shiloh.
J. L. Wilson,	S. G. Hemphill,	Bethesda.
R. E. Cooper,	A. H. White,	Rock Hill.
J. W. Queery,	G. McC. Witherspoon,	Lancasterville.
Jas. S. White,	C. H. Ragsdale,	Catholic.
D. P. Robinson,	J. F. Lindsay, (2)	Yorkville.
J. W. Spratt,	J. J. Porter,	Six Mile Creek.
L. R. McCormick,	J. L. Bigger,	Allison Creek.

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\*The number indicates the day of enrollment of members who were tardy.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
G. A. Trenholm,	J. W. Walker,	Purity.
E. Brantley,	E. M. Atkinson,	Zion.
F. L. Leeper, (2)	W. H. Stewart,	Fort Mill.
J. C. McMullen, (2)	W. W. Brice, (2)	Concord.
H. B. Pratt, (4)	J. A. McCullough,	Ebenezer.
	H. H. Gooch,	Douglass.
	Jesse Castles,	Mizpah.
	W. D. Love,	Olivet.
	Thos. Casky,	Pleasant Grove.
	H. R. Bell,	Tirzah.
	J. C. Foster,	Waxhaw.

## CHARLESTON PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
George Howe.		
*J. L. Girardeau,	W. G. Vardell, (2)	Summerville.
J. D. A. Brown,	Mortimer Glover,	Orangeburg.
G. R. Brackett, (3)	Thomas Stenhouse, (3)	Ebenezer.
J. R. Dow,	S. J. M. Clarke,	Allendale.
W. F. Junkin.		
J. E. Fogartie.		
J. B. Mack (2).		
T. P. Hay,	W. M. Hutson,	Aiken.

## ENOREE PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
R. H. Reid,	T. J. Moore,	Nazareth.
A. A. James,	J. Black,	Fair Forest.
T. H. Law,	J. T. Howe,	Salem.
W. P. Jacobs (2).		
A. P. Nicholson.		
R. H. Nall,	J. K. Dickson,	Washington St.
A. L. Miller.		
B. G. Clifford,	J. B. Steedman, (2)	Unionville.
J. Y. Fair.		

## HARMONY PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
J. Leighton Wilson,	O. R. Thompson,	Scion.
J. A. Cousar,	W. D. Ussery,	Beaver Creek.
J. G. Richards,	J. B. Jennings,	Bennettsville.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
James McDowell,	A. F. Cousar,	Bishopville.
E. H. Buist,	R. C. McFadden,	Concord.
W. S. Plumer,	J. Bookman,	Horeb.
N. W. Edmunds,	A. White,	Sumterville.
Robt. Bradley,	A. McCaskill, (2)	Pine Tree.
C. E. Chichester, (2)	D. Douglas,	Pisgah.
J. S. Cozby,	S. L. Shaw,	Mt. Zion.
W. J. McKay.		
W. W. Mills,	W. D. Bolick,	Salem (L. R.)
H. G. Gilland.		
J. G. Law,	J. J. James,	Darlington.

## SOUTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CHURCHES.
J. B. Adger.		
W. F. Pearson,	Silas Johnstone,	Aveleigh.
J. L. Martin,	L. W. Perrin,	Abbeville.
S. L. Morris (2).		
E. P. Davis.		

*MINISTERS ABSENT AND CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.*

## BETHEL PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.—L. W. Curtis, J. H. Douglas,\* W. W. Ratchford, J. G. Hall, C. R. Hemphill.

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.—Beersheba, Bullock's Creek, Carmel Hill, Cedar Shoal, Harmony, Hopewell, Shiloh, Ramah.

## CHARLESTON PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS—Edward Palmer, T. H. Legare, C. S. Vedder,\* W. H. Adams,\* J. H. Bryson, J. B. Dunwody, T. H. Cunningham\*

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.—Barnwell, Beech Island, Central (Charleston), Charleston 2d Church, Columbia 1st Church, Edisto, Harmony, James' Island, John's Island and Wadmalaw, Mt. Pleasant, New Wappetaw, Stoney Creek, Walterboro', Wilton, Zion (Glebe Street.)

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\*Excused for absence

## ENOREE PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.—F. Jacobs, C. B. Stewart, Z. L. Holmes, J. S. Bailey, H. T. Morton.

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.—Antioch, Bethany, Cane Creek, Clinton, Duncan's Creek, Enoree, Fairview, Friendship, Grindall Shoals, Laurens, Liberty Springs, Limestone, Lisbon, Little River, Mt. Calvary, Mt. Tabor (G), Mt. Tabor (U), Mt. Vernon, New Harmony, North Pacolet, Rocky Springs, Shady Grove, Spartanburg, Warrior's Creek, Woodruff's.

## HARMONY PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.—W. Brearley, W. M. Reid, D. McQueen, S. H. Hay,\* H. M. Brearley, W. A. Gregg,\* D. McDuffie, J. L. Bartlett, J. E. Dunlop, H. C. DuBose, D. S. McAllister, A. M. Hassell, W. C. Smith, R. D. Perry.\*

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.—Aimwell, Bethel, Beulah, Brewington, Camden, Carolina, Centre Point, Cheraw, Elon, Fair Hope, Florence, Great Pee Dee, Hephzibah, Hopewell, Indiantown, Kentyre, Kingston, Liberty Hill, Lebanon, Little Pee Dee, Lynchburg, Manning, Marion, Midway, Red Bluff, Reedy Creek, Salem (B. R.), Tirzah, Turkey Creek, Union, Williamsburg.

## SOUTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.—W. Carlile, Wm. McWhorter, J. F. Gibert, J. McLees, E. F. Hyde, J. O. Lindsay, J. R. Riley,\* H. McLees, H. Strong,\* D. E. Frierson, R. A. Fair, T. C. Ligon, R. C. Ligon, T. E. Davis.

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.—Anderson, Belton, Bethel, Bethia, Carmel, Central, Cokesbury, Edgefield, George's Creek, Gilder's Creek, Good Hope, Greenville, Honea Path, Hopewell, Hopewell (P.), Lebanon, Little Mountain, Midway, Mt. Bethel, Mt. Zion, Nazareth, Ninety-Six, New Pickens, Pickens (old), Providence, Retreat, Richland, Roberts, Rock, Rocky River, Smyrna, Seneca City, Upper Long Cane, Varennes, Walhalla, Williamston, Willington.

Rev. N. W. Edmunds was elected Moderator, and Rev. H. G. Gilland, Temporary Clerk.

On motion of Dr. Girardeau, it was resolved that Synod recede from business to-morrow from 11 A. M. to 12.30 P. M.

On motion of Rev. R. E. Cooper, it was resolved that the

daily sessions of the Synod be from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M.—the last half hour to be spent in devotional exercises—after to-morrow

Synod then adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Martin.

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THURSDAY, November 27th, 9 A. M.

Synod was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Minutes of last night's session were read and approved.

The following additional members appeared, rendered satisfactory reasons for tardiness, and were enrolled :

MINISTERS.—S. L. Watson, F. L. Leeper, J. C. McMullen, J. B. Mack, W. P. Jacobs, C. E. Chichester, and S. L. Morris.

ELDERS.—*Bethel Presbytery*.—W. D. Love, Olivet Church ; W. W. Brice, Concord ; and J. F. Lindsay, Yorkville (who was excused, but reason for tardiness not sustained.)

*Charleston Presbytery*.—W. G. Vardell, Summerville Church.

*Enoree Presbytery*.—J. B. Steedman, Unionville Church.

*Harmony Presbytery*.—A. McCaskill, Pine Tree Church.

*South Carolina Presbytery*. — Silas Johnstone, Aveleigh Church.

The reading of the Minutes of the last meeting of Synod was, on motion, dispensed with in view of the fact that 1,500 copies of them have been printed and distributed among the churches.

Upon the call for communications, the following were received: Excuse from Rev W. H. Adams, for absence from the present and last meetings ; referred to the Committee on Leave of Absence. Letter from Rev. H. C. DuBose, one of our missionaries in China ; referred to the Committee on Foreign Missions. An overture to the General Assembly, presented by Rev. Dr. Girardeau ; referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures. Report of the Treasurer of the Theological Seminary ; referred to the Committee on the Theological Seminary. Also, a petition of certain churches of Harmony Presbytery, located in Fairfield County, asking to



be transferred to Bethel Presbytery ; referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Moderator then announced the following

### STANDING COMMITTEES.

*Devotional Exercises*.—Rev. R. E. Cooper, and Elder A. H. White.

*Bills and Overtures*.—Revs. W. F. Junkin, J. B. Adger, and J. G. Richards ; Elders A. White, and T. J. Moore.

*Judicial*.—Revs. J. L. Girardeau, W. J. McKay, and R. H. Reid ; Elders J. K. Dickson, and Mortimer Glover.

*Narrative*.—Revs. G. A. Trenholm, and W. W. Mills ; Elder W. M. Hutson.

*Foreign Missions*.—Revs. J. Lowrie Wilson, and J. G. Law ; and Elder O. R. Thompson.

*Theological Seminary*.—Revs. J. S. Cogby, W. F. Pearson, and A. A. James ; Elders S. G. Hemphill, and J. B. Jennings.

*Finance*.—Elders L. W. Perrin, and A. F. Cousar.

*Minutes of Assembly*.—Revs. E. H. Buist, and J. L. Martin ; and Elder J. W. Walker.

*Leave of Absence*.—Revs. J. A. Cousar, D. Harrison, and A. P. Nicholson ; Elders J. L. Adams, and J. Bookman.

*Presbyterial Records*.—

Bethel—Revs. J. D. A. Brown, and Elder S. L. Shaw.

Charleston.—Rev. R. H. Nall, and Elder R. C. McFadden.

Enoree.—Rev. James McDowell, and Elder J. C. Foster.

Harmony.—Rev. Jas. S. White, and Elder J. S. M. Clarke.

South Carolina.—Rev. J. R. Dow, and Elder W. H. Stewart.

Rev. Messrs. J. F. Latimer, S. Taylor Martin, W. E. McIlwaine, and S. H. Chester, of the Synod of North Carolina, were, on motion, invited to sit as corresponding members, and were, accordingly, conducted forward, and welcomed by the Moderator.

On motion, it was resolved that Synod hear Rev. Prof. Latimer in the interests of Davidson College, to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

The Narratives of the several Presbyteries were read, and referred to the Committee on the Narratives. The Presbyteries also presented the following



## STATISTICAL REPORTS.

BETHEL PRESBYTERY reports to the Synod that it is composed of 22 Ministers and 30 churches, and has under its care three licentiates and three candidates. During the last year it has received licentiate J. C. McMullen from the Presbytery of Tuscaloosa, Synod of Alabama, and ordained and installed him pastor of Concord Church; it has also received Rev. F. L. Leeper from the Presbytery of Charleston, and installed him pastor of Fort Mill Church. It has dissolved the pastoral relation existing between the Yorkville Church and the Rev. L. H. Wilson, and dismissed him to the Presbytery of Atlanta; and it has also dissolved the pastoral relation existing between the Rev. J. W. Spratt and Six Mile Creek Church. It has licensed candidates L. H. Robinson and S. L. Wilson as probationers for the Gospel Ministry, and has dismissed licentiate J. G. Henderson to the care of the Presbytery of Ontario, Canada, and licentiate H. C. Fennel to the care of the Presbytery of Enoree. It has further organized one new church, known as Ramah, in York County. All its churches are regularly supplied with the ministrations of the Word.

*Addendum:* During the sessions of Synod, Presbytery has received the Rev. H. B. Pratt from Orange Presbytery, Synod of North Carolina.

D. HARRISON, *Stated Clerk.*

CHARLESTON PRESBYTERY reports to the Synod that it comprises 16 Ministers and 20 Churches, and has under its care one licentiate and three candidates. It has, during the last year, dismissed Rev. F. L. Leeper to Bethel Presbytery, and Rev. J. R. Jacobs to the Presbytery of Western Texas. It has received under its care, from Harmony Presbytery, licentiate Thomas P. Hay, and ordained and installed him pastor of the Aiken Church. It has received Rev. John G. Law from South Carolina Presbytery, and dismissed him to Harmony Presbytery. It has licensed candidate H. M. Whaling, and transferred him to the care of the Presbytery of Memphis. The names of the colored churches, viz: Hopewell, Aimwell, and Salem, have been erased from our roll; said churches having, without our knowledge, applied for admission into the Atlantic Presbytery (a Presbytery of the Northern Presbyterian Church), and been received by that body. Our church edifice at Walterboro' was destroyed by a storm on the 16th day of April, but we rejoice to be able to state that

the means have been collected to erect another house of worship in that town. We have one evangelist laboring within our bounds, and seventeen of our twenty congregations are supplied statedly with the means of grace.

JOHN R. DOW, *Stated Clerk*.

ENOREE PRESBYTERY respectfully reports to Synod that it now consists of 13 Ministers and 30 Churches, and has under its care two licentiates and four candidates. It has received Rev. J. Y. Fair from the Presbytery of Central Mississippi, and installed him pastor of Laurens C. H. Church. It has, also, received under its care, from Bethel Presbytery, licentiate H. C. Fennel, and examined and appointed him to be ordained to the full work of the ministry, and installed in the pastoral charge of Liberty Springs Church. It has licensed Mr. T. B. Craig to preach the Gospel. It has dismissed the Rev. H. T. Morton to the Presbytery of South Carolina. It has, further, appointed Rev. Z. L. Holmes to evangelistic labor in the churches of Shady Grove, Little River, Duncan's Creek, and Bethany; Rev. J. S. Bailey, in the Churches of Salem, Cane Creek, Mt. Tabor (U.), and Mt. Vernon; and Rev. A. L. Miller, in the churches of Woodruff's, Limestone, Mt. Calvary, and Enoree.

WM. P. JACOBS, *Stated Clerk*.

HARMONY PRESBYTERY reports to Synod that it is composed of 28 Ministers and 43 Churches, and has under its care two licentiates and four candidates. Rev. R. D. Perry has been received from Bethel Presbytery, and installed pastor of Midway Church, and Rev. John G. Law from Charleston Presbytery, and installed pastor of Darlington Church. Rev. W. Cuttino Smith has been installed pastor of Williamsburg, Union, and Elon Churches. Candidate A. McIver Fraser has been licensed to preach the Gospel. The pastoral relations heretofore existing between Rev. J. E. Dunlop and the Little Pee Dee Church, Rev. N. W. Edmunds and the Centre Point Church, Rev. W. T. Thompson and the Hopewell Church, Rev. D. McQueen, D. D., and the Sumterville Church, and Rev. S. H. Hay and the Bethesda (Camden) Church, have all been dissolved; and Rev. W. T. Thompson has been dismissed to the Presbytery of Nashville, and licentiate T. P. Hay to the care of Charleston Presbytery.

W. A. GREGG, *Stated Clerk*.

SOUTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERY respectfully reports to Synod that it is composed of 19 Ministers and 40 Churches, and has under its Care four licentiates and five candidates. During the last twelve months it has had no increase of ministers, and no decrease by death ; but has dismissed Rev. J. G. Law to Charleston Presbytery. It installed Rev. John B. Adger, D. D., pastor of Roberts and Hopewell (P.) Churches, and, afterwards, dissolved the pastoral relation between him and Roberts Church. It has organized a Church at Flat Rock, in Oconee County. It has licensed candidates L. A. Simpson and J. A. McLees to preach the Gospel.

S. L. MORRIS, *Stated Clerk*.

An excuse for absence from the present meeting was presented in behalf of Rev. S. H. Hay, and referred to the Committee on Leave of Absence.

Rev. J. M. Boyd, of the M. E. Church, South, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and was welcomed by the Moderator.

Excuses for absence from the present meeting, on the part of Rev. John McLees and W. A. Gregg were referred to the Committee on Leave of Absence.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Plumer, the hearing of the report of the Special Committee on the Diaconate was made the order for 12.30 to-day.

On motion, the Presbytery of South Carolina was directed to meet in this house this afternoon, at 4 o'clock, to attend to necessary business.

Synod recessed from business until 12.30 P. M.

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Upon the resumption of business, Rev. Dr. Girardeau presented, in behalf of the Committee, an additional report, *in part*, on the NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIACONATE. On motion of Rev. Dr. Adger, the report was received, and the editors of the SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW were requested to publish it in that periodical. And the Committee was continued, with the request that they complete their labors

in the discussion of this important subject, and report again next year.

On motion of Rev. T. H. Law, it was made the special order for 12 M. to-morrow, to consider the interests of the Theological Seminary.

An overture from Enoree Presbytery, praying Synod to petition the State Legislature to pass an act prohibiting the running of freight trains on the Sabbath day, was read and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Stated Clerk presented the following

### REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1878-1879.

*T. H. Law, Treasurer, in Account with the Synod of South Carolina.*

#### DR.

To balance in hand at close of last year . .	\$6 55	
To assessment of Bethel Presbytery, paid .	35 00	
To assessment of Harmony Presbytery, paid . . . . .	45 00	
To assessment of Enoree Presbytery, paid .	30 00	
To assessment of Charleston Presbytery, paid . . . . .	30 00	
To assessment of South Carolina Presby- tery, paid . . . . .	35 00	
To balance due Treasurer. . . . .	95	\$182 50
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#### CR.

By expense of printing and distributing 1,500 copies Minutes . . . . .	52 50	
By paid Rev. Dr. Mack on expenses to General Assembly . . . . .	30 00	
By salary of Stated Clerk. . . . .	100 00	\$182 50
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In presenting the above report, I desire to call the Synod's attention to two facts :

1. No appropriation was made, and no instructions were given me, to pay the necessary traveling expenses of the brethren appointed to represent the Synod before the Assembly in the appeal case of Rev. J. E. White ; but I took it for granted that the Synod did not mean those brethren to bear their own expenses ; and, inasmuch as the Rev. Dr. Mack

was not sent as a Commissioner from his Presbytery, I paid him \$30 out of the Treasury to defray, in part, his expenses ; and I herewith submit for him a bill of \$25 additional on this account.

2. Though not authorized by the Synod to do so, I took the responsibility of inserting a few advertisements upon the fly-leaves of the printed Minutes, which considerably reduced the expense of printing the same. If the Synod approves of this plan, I am convinced that a large part of the expense of publishing our Minutes may hereafter be met in this way, thus materially reducing the assessments on the Presbyteries.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. H. LAW,

*Stated Clerk and Treasurer.*

Rev. R. E. Cooper reported, for the Committee on Devotional Exercises, that the Rev. Robert H. Nall will preach in this house this evening, at 7 o'clock. Approved.

On motion, Synod then adjourned until 9 A. M. tomorrow. Prayer by Rev. John G. Law.

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FRIDAY, November 28th, 1879, 9 A. M.

Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. T. H. Law. The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The following additional members reported, gave satisfactory excuses for tardiness, and were enrolled, viz : Rev. G. R. Brackett, and Elders Thomas Stenhouse, of Ebenezer Church, Charleston Presbytery, and W. D. Bolick, of Salem (L. R.) Church, Harmony Presbytery.

The report of the President and Treasurer of the Society for the Relief of Indigent and Superannuated Ministers, &c., was read and referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Rev. C. E. Chichester, F. L. Leeper, and Elder Thos Stenhouse.

Rev. R. H. Nall, of Committee on Records of Charleston Presbytery, and Rev. J. R. Dow, of Committee on Records South Carolina Presbytery, reported, recommending their approval. Adopted.



On motion of Rev. Dr. Adger, it was made the special order for 12 M. to-morrow, to consider methods of finance and contribution in our Churches.

The time and place of the next meeting being called up, SUMTERVILLE CHURCH was chosen as the *place*, and Wednesday, November 17th, 7½ P. M., the *time*.

Rev. E. M. Richardson, of the Synod of Memphis, and Rev. Messrs. R. Lathan and C. B. Betts, of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, were invited to seats as corresponding members, and, as such, were welcomed by the Moderator.

On motion of Rev. R. E. Cooper, Rev. E. M. Richardson, Secretary of Education, was invited to address the Synod in the interests of that cause, which he did, at some length.

On motion, Rev. T. E. Gilbert, of the M. E. Church, South, was received and welcomed as a corresponding member on the floor of Synod.

Rev. E. H. Buist, of the Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly, presented a report, which was received and considered *seriatim*.

Pending the consideration of this report, the order for 11 o'clock was taken up, and the Rev. Prof. Latimer was heard in the interests of Davidson College.

On motion of Rev. J. H. Saye, a Committee was appointed to consider and report on the matters brought before Synod by Prof. Latimer. Revs. J. H. Saye and G. R. Brackett, and Elder Silas Johnstone were appointed this Committee; and, on motion, the matters brought before the Synod in the address of the Secretary of Education, were referred to the same Committee.

The consideration of the report on the Minutes of the Assembly was resumed, but was again arrested by the order for 12 o'clock.

Rev. J. B. Mack, D. D., in behalf of the Board of Directors, presented a detailed statement of the present condition of the Theological Seminary, and was followed by Rev. Drs. Plumer, Howe, Wilson, and others.



Rev. J. Lowrie Wilson, of the Committee on Foreign Missions, presented a report, which was adopted, as follows :

The Standing Committee on Foreign Missions respectfully report that no papers have been placed in our hands except a letter addressed to the Synod from our beloved missionary in China, the Rev. H. C. DuBose.

We recommend :

1. That a conference be held in this house, at 7 o'clock this evening, in behalf of this great cause.
2. That the letter from Bro. DuBose be then read.
3. That the Rev. Dr. J. Leighton Wilson be invited to address the Synod.
4. And that, at the close, a collection for Foreign Missions be taken up.

It was made the second order for this evening's session to hear the report of the Committee on the Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Junkin, in behalf of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, reported :

Overture No. 1—being a petition from the Churches of Scion, Lebanon, Salem (L. R.), Aimwell, and Horeb, located in Fairfield County, praying that said churches, together with Rev. W. W. Mills, pastor of Lebanon and Salem Churches, be transferred from the Presbytery of Harmony to the Presbytery of Bethel, the petition bearing the official approval of Harmony Presbytery.

The Committee recommends that the prayer of petitioners be granted, and that the boundary line between the Presbyteries be so changed as to include the whole of Fairfield County in Bethel Presbytery. Adopted.

Overture No. 2—from Enoree Presbytery, praying the Synod to petition the State Legislature to pass an act to prohibit the running of freight trains on the Sabbath day.

The Committee recommends that the request be answered in the negative. Some members of the Committee are of the opinion that it is inconsistent with the dignity of the Church of Christ to present herself as a petitioner at the bar of any civil assembly. Others acknowledge the full right, and sometimes the duty, of the Church so to appear, but feel that such

right should be used with great caution. All, however, agree that, in our capacity as citizens, we should do all in our power to promote Sabbath observance.

On motion, the report was docketed.

Rev. W. R. Atkinson, of the Synod of North Carolina, was invited to a seat, and welcomed, as a corresponding member.

After the devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. W. J. McKay, Synod took recess until 7 o'clock this evening.

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Synod re-assembled at 7 o'clock, and the Conference on Foreign Missions was opened with singing and prayer. The letter from Rev. H. C. DuBose, of Soochow, China, was then read, and addresses were delivered by Rev. J. L. Wilson, D. D., Secretary of Foreign Missions, and others. A collection was taken up, also, amounting to \$71.

Rev. J. S. White, and Rev. Jas. McDowell reported respectively on the Records of Harmony and Enoree Presbyteries, recommending their approval. Reports adopted.

The following report was received and approved:

The Committee appointed to represent the Synod of South Carolina in the appeal or complaint of J. E. White against the Synod, would respectfully report:

1. That they both were in attendance upon the sessions of the General Assembly, held at Louisville Kentucky.
2. That the Assembly dismissed the appeal on the ground that the appellant, or complainant, did not appear to prosecute.

JOHN B. ADGER.

JOSEPH B. MACK.

Rev. J. H. Saye presented the following, which was adopted:

The Committee appointed to bring in a minute in reference to the statements of Prof. Latimer regarding the present condition and prospects of Davidson College, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, to wit:

1. Synod has heard these statements with sincere pleasure, and rejoices to know that this institution enjoys so many

manifestations of the divine favor, and presents so many advantages as a seat of learning.

2. Synod reiterates its former commendations of this institution as a proper place to send our sons and wards to in order to acquire the elements of a substantial education.

Rev. C. E. Chichester, for the Committee on the Report of the Society for the Relief of Indigent and Superannuated Ministers, &c., reported, recommending that the report be approved, and that the same officers be re-elected for the ensuing year. The report was adopted.

Rev. J. S. Cozby, for the Committee, presented a report on the Theological Seminary, which was received, considered *seriatim*, and adopted as follows :

The Committee appointed to consider the present condition of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, would report the following for the adoption of Synod, viz :

That whereas the Synod has heard with painful interest, from the Directors of the Seminary, of its present financial difficulties ; and whereas the Directors have declared to Synod that they will be obliged to suspend the exercises of the institution unless the Church will come to their help with a liberal hand ; and whereas this Synod is very unwilling to have the Seminary suspended for even a brief season, being persuaded that its maintenance is of vital importance to the interests of our Church in this State ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, 1st. That this Synod will heartily respond to the appeal of the Directors for its liberal help, and will make all necessary efforts to raise the sum of \$2,000 for the present year.

*Resolved*, 2d. That this amount be apportioned among the several Presbyteries as follows: Bethel, \$500; Harmony, \$450; South Carolina, \$400; Charleston, \$300; and Enoree, \$300; the remaining \$50 having been assumed by private parties; and that the following named brethren be appointed to attend to the collecting of the amounts in their several Presbyteries: Rev. J. S. White, in Bethel; Rev. W. J. McKay, in Harmony; Rev. J. L. Martin, in South Carolina; Rev. G. R. Brackett, D. D., in Charleston; and Rev. T. H. Law, in Enoree.

*Resolved, further*, That it is the sense of this Synod that, inasmuch as the Seminary at Columbia is the property of the General Assembly, and, therefore, under its control, the burden of sustaining the same properly devolves upon the *whole*

Church ; and that, while this Synod is willing in the present emergency to exert itself to meet the wants of the institution, as heretofore, for the current year, it cannot see its way clear to undertake, in connection with the Synods of Georgia and Alabama alone, to bear this burden in the future, so long as the Seminary retains its present relations to the General Assembly.

On motion, the Stated Clerk was directed to send a copy of this report to the Board of Directors of the Seminary.

Rev. H. G. Gilland presented the following overture to the General Assembly, which was adopted :

The Synod of South Carolina respectfully overtures the General Assembly, that it ascertain from the Report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, what amount it will be necessary to add to the income from its endowment, in order to carry on the exercises of the Seminary for the year 1880-1881, and that the Assembly apportion this amount among the different Synods, requesting them to collect their apportionments, and send them to the Treasurer of the Seminary.

On motion, it was made the first order for to-morrow morning to hear the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Synod then adjourned with prayer by Rev. J. L. Martin.

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SATURDAY, November 29th, 1879, 9 A. M.

Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. J. H. Saye.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. R. F. Taylor, of the Synod of Georgia, was invited and welcomed to a seat as corresponding member.

Rev. H. B. Pratt was reported as having been received into Bethel Presbytery during this meeting of Synod, and was accordingly enrolled as a member of the body.

Rev. Dr. J. L. Wilson, Secretary, addressed Synod on the subject of Home Missions. On motion, the matters presented in Dr. Wilson's address were referred to a special committee, consisting of Revs. J. B. Mack, W. P. Jacobs, and Elder W. D. Love.



Rev. R. E. Cooper presented the following report of the Committee on Devotional Exercises, which was approved :

### APPOINTMENTS FOR THE SABBATH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. J. L. Martin, preach at 11 A. M. (by request of the Moderator, who is indisposed); Rev. J. G. Richards, administer the Lord's Supper; Rev. J. L. Girardeau, D. D., preach at 7 P. M.

METHODIST CHURCH.—Rev. G. R. Brackett, D. D., preach at 11 A. M.; Rev. W. W. Mills, preach at 7 P. M.

ASSOCIATE REFORMED CHURCH.—*Tirzah*—Rev. J. A. Cousar preach at 11 A. M. *Neilly's Creek*—Rev. Jas. Douglass preach at 11 A. M.

COLORED CHURCH.—Rev. Jas. McDowell preach at 3 P. M.

Rev. W. P. Jacobs and Maj. W. G. Vardell address the Sabbath-schools in the Presbyterian Church at 3 P. M.

The unfinished business, viz : the report on the Minutes of the General Assembly, was taken up, and Article first was amended and adopted. Revs. E. H. Buist, J. L. Girardeau, J. B. Adger, and J. L. Martin, and Elder Silas Johnstone, were appointed the Committee called for by the resolution.

Rev. Dr. Junkin presented the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures upon Overture No. 3, viz : Dr. Girardeau's Overture to the General Assembly, touching the deliverance of the last Assembly concerning Worldly Amusements. The report was received.

Pending the discussion of a motion to adopt, 12 o'clock came, and the order for that hour was postponed.

Synod took recess for five minutes, after which the report of the Committee on the Minutes of the Assembly was again taken up and Article second of the report adopted.

On motion of Rev. J. G. Richards, this matter was docketed, and its further consideration postponed.

Synod then returned to the consideration of the report on Overture No. 3. Pending the consideration, Synod recessed from business for the devotional exercises, which were conducted by Rev. J. D. A. Brown.

On motion, recess was taken till 6 o'clock.

Synod resumed business at 6 o'clock.

Rev. J. D. A. Brown reported on the Records of Bethel Presbytery, recommending their approval. Adopted.

Two communications, addressed to the Moderator, from Rev. J. E. White, were read, and, on motion, docketed.

Elder L. W. Perrin presented the report of the Committee on Finance, which was adopted, as follows :

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the report of the Treasurer of Synod, submit—

1. That they have examined the account of the funds received and disbursed, and find it correct and properly vouched.

2. They recommend that the action of the Treasurer in paying \$30 in part of expenses incurred by Rev. J. B. Mack, D. D., in attending upon the sessions of the General Assembly as Commissioner from this Synod, be approved, and that he be directed to pay also to Dr. Mack, the balance of \$25 still due on said account.

3. That a balance of 95 cents over-paid by the Treasurer be refunded to him.

4. That the Stated Clerk be instructed to print and distribute 1,500 copies of the Minutes of the present meeting.

5. That the action of the Stated Clerk in publishing advertisements upon the fly leaves of the Minutes be approved, and that he have leave to continue this practice, provided that he publish the same advertisements or those of a similar character.

6. That in order to meet the necessary expenses of Synod, the following apportionment be made upon the several Presbyteries to raise the sum of \$175, viz : Bethel, \$40 ; Charleston, \$30 ; Enoree, \$30 ; Harmony, \$40 ; and South Carolina, \$35.

Rev. Dr. Mack, in behalf of the Committee, presented the following, which was adopted :

The Synod has heard with deep interest the statements of the esteemed Secretary of Home Missions. It is matter of rejoicing to know that 145 Pastors and Stated Supplies, and 34 Evangelists, have been wholly, or in part, supported by the benevolent contributions of our church. Also, that 26 aged and infirm ministers, and 83 families of deceased ministers have been thus aided.



This Synod would cheerfully commend the several causes of Home Missions, viz: Sustention, Evangelistic Labor, and Invalid Fund, to the prayers and contributions of all our Churches.

Rev. J. A. Cousar presented the following report, which was approved:

The Committee on Leave of Absence would respectfully report:

1. The following Ministers have been excused for absence at the last meeting of Synod, viz: J. H. Douglas, James Douglass, D. P. Robinson, D. Harrison, W. H. Adams, J. S. Cozby, and J. A. Cousar.

2. Excused for absence from the present meeting: S. H. Hay, W. H. Adams, J. H. Douglas, C. S. Vedder, E. F. Hyde, R. D. Perry, W. A. Gregg, T. H. Cunningham, H. Strong, and J. R. Riley.

3. The following members have been granted leave of absence during the present session, viz: Rev. J. Y. Fair, R. H. Reid, E. Brantley, C. E. Chichester, J. W. Queery, W. J. McKay, A. A. James, A. L. Miller, J. S. Cozby, J. R. Dow, D. P. Robinson, and W. F. Junkin. Elders: Mortimer Glover, D. McCollough, J. S. Drennan, W. D. Love, R. C. McFadden, T. J. Moore, H. H. Gooch, C. H. Ragsdale, W. D. Bolick, A. McCaskill, H. R. Bell, J. Castles, J. L. Adams, and Thomas Caskey.

Rev. G. A. Trenholm presented, and the Synod adopted, the following.

### NARRATIVE.

1. There are many features of an encouraging character. All our Churches, with few exceptions, are fully or in part supplied with the ministrations of the Gospel. There seems to pervade the minds of God's people, a high appreciation of the ordinances of His house. One Presbytery alone complains of delinquency in this matter, while all the others unite in noting this feature of their work as presenting a most encouraging aspect, and reaping its legitimate result, the upbuilding of the saints in the faith. Two Presbyteries report a growing interest in the work among the colored people; one of them expressing the hope that the way will soon be opened to place an Evangelist into this particular field of labour. The important work of the Sabbath-school is generally reported as in a flourishing condition. We note the fact

that one of our Presbyteries rejoices over the efficient prosecution of Evangelistic labours within its bounds, and reports the opening of new and hopeful fields. These are some of the prominent points of interest and encouragement gathered from the material placed in the hands of the Committee.

2. But there are some features presented of a very discouraging character. The family altar, in many of our Churches, has fallen into decay. Parents are not realizing and discharging the solemn obligation to train up their children for the Lord; Christians are growing very lax in the observance of the Lord's day; and the spirit of liberality in consecrating our substance to the Master, is, in many congregations, on the wane. To complete this dark picture, the almost universal lamentation comes rolling up in the ears of the Synod—there is no special outpouring of God's Spirit on our Churches, and there is among us, to an alarming extent, the prevalence of much worldliness.

Overture No. 2 was taken from the docket, and on motion of Dr. Mack, the following substitute for the report of the Committee was adopted :

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by this Synod to confer with other religious bodies in the State as to the expediency of petitioning the Legislature to pass an Act prohibiting the running of freight trains on the Sabbath day.

The Moderator appointed Rev. Drs. J. B. Mack, and J. L. Girardeau, and Elder W. A. Clark, to constitute the committee called for.

The report of the Committee on the Minutes of the Assembly was again taken up, amended and adopted as follows :

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly would respectfully submit to Synod the following items in the Minutes of the General Assembly, as requiring the Synod's attention and action :

1. The deliverance of the Assembly on Worldly Amusements. (Pages 23 and 24 Assembly's printed Minutes.)

Your Committee recommend, that inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion among our people as to the construction of this deliverance, a special committee be appointed to prepare a brief minute, expressive of the sense of the Synod concerning Worldly Amusements.

2. The *third* resolution of the Special Committee on the Sabbath. (p. 46.)

Your Committee propose that all our Ministers be recommended to read from their pulpits the report of the Permanent Committee on the Sabbath, made to the last Assembly.

3. Resolution *eighth* in the report of the Standing Committee on Education (p. 38), viz: "That the observance of the usual Concert of Prayer on the last Thursday of February be recommended to all our Churches.

The Synod calls the attention of all our Churches to this recommendation of the General Assembly.

4. Recommendation touching the Monthly Concert of Prayer for Foreign Missions, and the Missionary. (p. 54.)

Your Committee recommend the following action:

That Synod heartily endorses the recommendation of the Assembly touching these matters, and urges the observance of the Monthly Concert, as far as practicable, in all our Churches; and commends the *Missionary* to our people.

5. Resolution *third* of report of Standing Committee on Publication. (p. 48.)

We recommend the following action:

That Synod heartily approves of this resolution, and urges all our Churches to secure as wide a circulation as possible of the *Earnest Worker* and *Children's Friend* in all the congregations within our bounds.

Rev. E. H. Buist, in behalf of the Special Committee, appointed under the 1st Article of the above report, presented the following Minute, which was adopted:

*Whereas*, It has come to the knowledge of this Synod that the deliverance of the last General Assembly touching *Worldly Amusements*, is understood by many as favouring indulgence by Church members in such amusements;

*Therefore*, This Synod, while denying the correctness of this construction, does hereby utter its solemn testimony against members of our Churches conforming to the world, and indulging in what is known as "Worldly Amusements."

Communication No. 1, from Rev. J. E. White, was taken from the docket. It is as follows:

"ROCK HILL, YORK CO., S. C., November 26, 1879.  
"To the Moderator of the Synod of S. C.:

REV. AND DEAR BRO.: The Synod of South Carolina is respectfully notified that application will be made to the next

General Assembly, to meet in Charleston, May, 1880, for an audience against the action of the Synod of South Carolina, in pursuance to the provisions of the Book of Discipline, Ch. 7, Sec. 3, Art. XI. (New Book, 13 Ch., Sec. 3, Art. 9, pp. 61, 62.)

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. E. WHITE."

Rev. Drs. Mack and Adger were re-appointed to attend the Assembly and represent the Synod in this matter.

And on motion, the Stated Clerk and Treasurer was authorized to pay their expenses, and if necessary, to add to the assessments laid upon the Presbyteries an amount sufficient for this purpose.

In regard to the *second* communication, which Mr. White requested should be spread upon the Minutes, Synod respectfully declined to accede to the request.

Rev. Dr. Brackett, in behalf of the Committee, presented the following, which was adopted :

The Committee to whom was referred the cause of education as presented by the Rev. E. M. Richardson, would recommend to Synod the following resolutions for its adoption :

1. That the Synod has heard with great interest and pleasure the address of the Secretary of Education, concerning the condition and prospects of this most important cause of the education of young men for the Gospel Ministry; and in view of the pressing need of funds to meet the immediate necessities of our students in Colleges and Theological Seminaries, our Churches be urged to increase the liberality of their contributions, and that every Church be induced to take up at least one collection, however small.

2. That in view of the small number of young men seeking the Ministry, Christian parents be earnestly exhorted to consider the duty and privilege of praying that the Lord would call their sons to the sacred office, and that all our people be urged to "pray the Lord of the harvest that He send forth labourers unto His harvest."

Synod then returned to the unfinished business, viz: the report on overture No. 3.



Rev. Dr. Mack offered the following as a substitute for the report of the Committee :

*Whereas*, There is a difference of opinion concerning the meaning of the deliverance of the last General Assembly as found on page 24, printed Minutes ;

*Therefore*, this Synod respectfully overtures the General Assembly to explain the meaning of said deliverance, especially as touching the distinction between *deliberative and judicial* decisions.

The ayes and noes being called for, the substitute was rejected by the following vote :

AYES : J. S. White, Spratt, Mills, Pratt, G. Howe, Brackett, Mack, Hay, T. H. Law, Jacobs, Richards, McDowell, Buist, Edmunds, Adger, J. A. McCullough, Stewart, Witherspoon, Porter, Foster, Hutson, Black, Steedman, Jennings, J. J. James, Bookman, A. White, Perrin—28.

NOES : Saye, Harrison, J. Lowrie Wilson, Cooper, McCormick, Trenholm, Leeper, McMullen, Girardeau, Brown, Fogartie, Nicholson, Nall, J. A. Cousar, Bradley, J. G. Law, Martin, Morris, Davis, Hemphill, A. H. White, Clarke, Stenhouse, Vardell, J. T. Howe, Dickson, A. F. Cousar, Shaw, D. Douglas, Thompson, Johnstone—31.

Excused from voting : Gilland, Bricè, Atkinson—3.

On motion, the overture presented by Dr. Girardeau was substituted for the Committee's report, and was adopted by the following vote :

AYES : J. Douglass, Harrison, J. Lowrie Wilson, Cooper, McCormick, Trenholm, Leeper, McMullen, Mills, Girardeau, Brown, Fogartie, Nicholson, Nall, J. A. Cousar, J. McDowell, Bradley, Gilland, J. G. Law, Martin, Morris, Davis, Hemphill, Stewart, Walker, A. H. White, Clarke, Vardell, Black, J. T. Howe, Dickson, A. F. Cousar, J. J. James, Shaw, D. Douglas, Thompson—36.

NOES : Saye, J. S. White, Pratt, G. Howe, Brackett, Richards, Buist, Edmunds, Adger, Witherspoon, Porter, Foster, Steedman, Bookman, A. White, Perrin, Johnstone—17.

Excused : Spratt, Mack, Hay, T. H. Law, Jacobs, Atkinson, Hutson, Jennings—8.

The paper adopted is as follows :

The Synod of South Carolina hereby overtures the General Assembly, respectfully praying that it will consider and repeal, or at least seriously modify, so much of the deliverance of the last Assembly, at Louisville, in relation to Worldly Amusements, as declares that all deliverances of the General Assembly, and, by necessary implication, of the other courts of the Church, which are not made by them in a strictly judicial capacity, but are deliverances *in thesi*, can be considered as only didactic, advisory and monitory. (See Printed Minutes 1879, p. 24.)

The Synod admits: 1. That the General Assembly cannot add to the Constitution, or make any Constitutional Rule; 2. That it has no power to commence process against individuals; 3. That in the exercise of the Constitutional power of Review and Control, it can reach *directly* only the court next below, and the other courts only *mediately* through it; 4. That it is precluded from deliverances *in thesi* which may prejudice a judicial case likely to come before it; 5. That *some* deliverances of the Assembly and of the other courts of the Church are only advisory, recommendatory and monitory.

The repeal or modification of so much of the said deliverance as has been herein specified, is asked on the following grounds :

1. Because it makes judicial decisions, as contra-distinguished from didactic decisions, something different from and more than didactic; which is the same thing as to make them different from and more than declarative decisions, and so the Constitution is contradicted, which represents *all* Church-power as simply ministerial and declarative. There is, it is conceded, a difference between judicial and deliberative decisions, growing out of the different circumstances which condition them; but to make a distinction between judicial and didactic decisions is to assign to the judicial something more than a declarative enforcement upon the conscience of the law of God. Either it is held that didactic and judicial decisions are the same, or, it is held that they are different. If it be held that they are the same, the reduction in this deliverance is utterly illogical and ought to be corrected. If it be held that they are different, we affirm the unconstitutionality of the discrimination.

2. Because it reduces the General Assembly and the other courts of our Church, so far as they are deliberative bodies,



to the *status* of Congregational Associations, possessed only of advisory power; is contrary to the genius of the Presbyterian system, and the historic doctrine of our Church as to the binding force of such deliberative decisions as are expository of constitutional law; and tends to degrade the authority, and lessen the influence of the Assembly.

3. Because said Deliverance takes away the Key of Doctrine from the General Assembly and the other courts of the Church, and retains in their hands the Key of Discipline alone.

4. Because it contravenes the great principle laid down in the Confession of Faith, consecrated by the blood of our martyred ancestors, and until now, well nigh universally recognized among us, that good and necessary consequences from the doctrines and precepts of the Divine Word, or from the Constitution of our Church, are of equal authority with the Word and the Constitution; and when declared by a Church-court in any capacity, whether judicial or deliberative, must bind the conscience, and can no more be regarded as simply advisory and monitory than are the Word itself and our Constitution. They have legal authority because they *are* law.

5. Because it opposes the doctrine of our Standards, long practically acted on in our Church, that the Church-courts are appointed by Christ to be authoritative expounders of His law contained in the Scriptures, and, as we believe, reflected in our Constitution. It is admitted that they have no original power to make law, but they can declare it; and it cannot, consistently with our Standards, be held that the only office of exposition by which the courts ministerially declare Christ's law is discharged by them when sitting in a strictly judicial capacity. But if the courts act by Christ's appointment when they, in their deliberative capacity, solemnly declare His law, they are entitled, in the discharge of that function, not only to be respected as advisers, but to be obeyed as authoritative expounders of law. Their deliberative decisions, so far as they furnish the right construction of the law, exert a legal force upon the conscience.

6. Because it makes it necessary, in order that an authoritative decision upon any point, either of doctrine or of morals, may be obtained from the General Assembly, or any other court, that judicial process in the courts of first resort be instituted, involving the case whose resolution is desired; and so a tendency to general litigation would be engendered in our Churches. For it is not to be supposed, that, having

been accustomed to Presbyterian usages, they would be satisfied with mere Congregationalist advice. The action will, in all probability, issue in breeding contentions, and multiplying judicial cases.

7. Because it is inconsistent with the following express provisions of our Constitution: "It belongeth to Synods and Councils ministerially to determine controversies of faith and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God, and government of His Church, \* \* \* which decrees and determinations [together with those which are judicial and just mentioned] if consonant with the Word of God, are to be received with reverence and submission, not only for their agreement with the Word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God, appointed thereto by His Word." (Confession of Faith, Chapter XXXI, Section II.) "They, [Church-courts], \* \* \* may frame symbols of faith, bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in practice, within or without the pale of the Church, and decide cases of conscience." "They have power to establish rules for the government, discipline, worship and extension of the Church." "They possess the right of requiring obedience to the laws of Christ." (Form of Government. Chap. V, Sect. II, Art. II.) "The General Assembly shall have power \* \* \* to bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in practice, injuriously affecting the Church; to decide in all controversies respecting doctrine and discipline." (Form of Government, Chap. V, Sect. VI, Art. V.)

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to spread upon the Minutes the answer proposed by the Committee to the above overture, but not adopted by the Synod; it is as follows:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures recommend that Synod decline to send up the proposed overture, (No. 3,) and in doing so, adopt the following Minute:

The force and meaning of the action sought to be repealed or modified, in order to be properly understood, must be viewed in the light of the inquiry (or overture) to which it is a reply. That inquiry is, "Are the deliverances of 1865 1869, and 1877, on the subject of Worldly Amusements, to be *accepted and enforced as law by judicial process.*"

To this very pointed and definite question, the reply of the Assembly is in the "Negative," and upon the following grounds:

"*First.* That these deliverances do not require judicial prosecution expressly, and could not require it without violating the spirit of our law.

"*Second.* That none of these deliverances were made by the Assembly in a strictly judicial capacity, but were all deliverances *in thesi*, and therefore can be considered as only didactic, advisory and monitory."

The proposed overture misconceives, and so mistakes, the meaning of this reply. It says that the Assembly "declares that all deliverances of the Assembly which are not made by it in a strictly judicial capacity, but are deliverances *in thesi*, are to be considered as only didactic, advisory and monitory."

In regard to such simply *in thesi* and strictly non-judicial deliverances, the Assembly's paper makes no affirmation whatever, and especially does it affirm nothing at all in regard to *all* such deliverances. What it does declare is that *these deliverances made in 1865, 1869, and 1877, in regard to Worldly Amusements*, and of course, all deliverances *similarly conditioned*, are *not to be accepted and enforced as law by judicial process*. And it adds, in the form of grounds for this declaration, that these deliverances do not in their very nature require judicial prosecution; that they *could* not require such prosecution without violating the spirit of our law; that the Assembly did not make them with any such intent; that they are not judicial in form; but that they are deliverances *in thesi*; and for these reasons are to be regarded and used in the exercise of discipline as only didactic, advisory and monitory.

Any other reply would involve the monstrous doctrine that a deliverance of the General Assembly is of *equal authority* with the *organic law* of the Church, that it must *control* and *determine* the *judicial decisions* of the *lower courts*, and must *bind* the *consciences* of God's people,

The proposed overture emphasizes the assertion that "The General Assembly cannot add to the Constitution, or make any Constitutional Rule." Surely then it cannot, except in the actual application of the law in judicial decisions, clothe any deliverance it may make with such authority that that deliverance "shall be *accepted and enforced as law by judicial process*."

This position of the Assembly does not contravene that grand provision of the Constitution, so finely presented in the proposed overture, viz: that "good and necessary consequences from the Word and the written Constitution, are of equal authority with the Word and Constitution." Such con-

sequences *bind*, not because they are declared to be, but because they *are law*; law by the very letter of the Constitution itself.

But no deliverance or declaration of the Assembly can legally control any lower court in its judicial decisions, or bind the conscience of the individual member of the Church, (other than in strictly judicial cases of process and decision,) except the deliverance carries with it to the mind of such court or individual member, the conviction of the "*goodness and necessity of the consequence.*"

The declarative function of the courts is more than mere affirmation. It is both didactic and confirmatory. And when a deliverance of the Assembly is thus made and shown to possess the principle of the written law, it is very much more than the simple *advice* of a Congregational Association. It is *didactic and monitory* as well as *advisory*. There is no unworthy relinquishment of power, no degrading of the authority of the Assembly. These words contain explicit authority of discipline. For the Assembly's Minute, which the proposed overture seeks to have repealed, distinctly calls attention to that sense of the word *discipline* (as used in the Constitution, Form of Government, Chap. 4, Sect. 3, Art. 4, and Rules of Discipline, Chap. 1, Art. 4), which is not "*judicial process,*" but is that "inquest, inspection, remonstrance, rebuke and private admonition," and which is here expressed by the phrase "didactic, advisory and monitory."

Thus the Assembly, instead of casting away the key of doctrine and retaining only the key of discipline, holds firmly to the former, and uses its deposit of responsibility with great and solemn caution, that she may the more safely and wisely use the grant of power conferred by the latter.

Much of the proposed overture, while admirable in its statements of principles, is irrelevant as bearing upon the action of this Assembly, because of the misconception of the meaning of the Assembly's Minute. And therefore, valuable and important as it confessedly is, requires no action by the Synod.

The consideration of Methods of Finance and Contribution in our Churches was, on motion, postponed until the next meeting.

The Judicial Committee reported that nothing had come into its hands, and asked to be discharged. Granted.



Rev. H. G. Gilland presented the following, which was unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, 1. That this Synod returns most hearty thanks to the good people of the congregation and community of Rock Hill, for their kind and Christian hospitality, and the splendid way in which they have entertained the members of Synod ; and that the Pastor of this Church be directed to make this resolution known to the people in such manner as he may deem best.

*Resolved*, 2. That Synod returns thanks to the several Railroad companies which have been kind in transporting the members of Synod at reduced rates of fare ; and that this resolution be made known to the Superintendents of the Railroads by the Stated Clerk of Synod.

The Minutes of to-day's session were then read and approved, and on motion, Synod adjourned, with singing, prayer and the Apostolic Benediction, to meet in Sumterville Church, Wednesday, November 17th, 1880, at 7½ P. M.

N. W. EDMUNDS,  
*Moderator.*

THOMAS H. LAW,  
*Stated Clerk.*

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